

# HOUSING FUTURES

Volume 1, Issue 4— September 2011

  
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## YOUR CO-OP NEEDS YOU!



Are you an  
active  
member?

### 2011 Lease

The 2011 Lease is now available.

[Read more p 2](#)

### Call for Nominations

Members are being invited to nominate for the board.

[Read more p 2](#)

### Housing Briefs

News and notes p 4

Members control a co-operative—setting policy, making decisions and electing a board that reports to members.

Active members are the essence of co-operation and necessary for the survival of co-operative values and principles. Without an active membership, member control is jeopardized in increased proportion to the number of inactive members

What is the responsibility of each member of SEHC?

Attend general meetings of the co-operative and provide an apology if you cannot attend.

Read the agenda for general meetings.

Ask questions at general meetings.

Register dissent at general meetings.

Nominate for the board.

Vote for the board

Complete member surveys.

Remain a tenant of good standing.

Authorised by Shirley Faram, on behalf of the SEHC Board, September 2011. SouthEast Housing Co-operative Ltd, PO Box 7141, Dandenong, 3175. 03 9706 8005. Fax 03 9706 8558 Web Site: <http://www.sehc.org.au>



# 2011 Lease and Nominations

## 2011 Lease released

The 2011 lease is now available for members.

Members adopted the 2011 lease at a general meeting of members on the 25 July 2011.

Before the lease could be offered to members, the lease was provided to DHS for feedback. The feedback has now been provided and we are now able to offer the 2011 Lease to members.

## Call for Nominations

Members are being asked to nominate for the board of SEHC. Nominations will close on the 7 October 2011.

A letter inviting members to nominate is being distributed with this newsletter with two forms— (a) a Director Nomination and (b) Age, Qualifications, Experience and Service forms.

Members who want to know more should contact the General Manager, Ian McLaren.

## Member Outreach

The board has agreed that there is a need to do more to encourage members to nominate for the board. While it is recognized that this will require considerable effort over a number of years, in the short-term the board has agreed to publish this special issue of Housing Futures with a focus on members and the board. Two other initiatives are outlined below—a Director interest survey and three meetings to provide information for prospective board members.

## Director Interest Survey

A survey is being distributed with this newsletter to identify what influences members in deciding whether or not to nominate for the board and what could be done to encourage more members to nominate this year and in future years. The results of the survey will be released to members and be used by the board to develop further initiatives to encourage members to nominate. A return envelope is provided with the survey. The closing date is 7 October 2011. The first 20 surveys returned will receive a \$20 voucher.



## Information for Prospective Board Members

Three information meetings are being organized to assist members to consider nominating as a director this year and in subsequent years. Registration for the meetings is required three days before the date of each meeting. If anyone registers for a meeting, then, that meeting will go ahead. If there are no registrations for a meeting, then, the meeting will be cancelled. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss the role of a SEHC director:

**Bentleigh East:** 7:00—9:00 p.m., Monday, 10 October 2011, Bentleigh Bayside Community Health, Gardeners Road, Bentleigh East 3165.

**Frankston:** 7:00—9:00 p.m., Monday 17 October 2011, Samuel Sherlock Hall, Quality Street, Frankston 3199

**Bayswater North:** 7:00—9:00 p.m., Wednesday, 26 October 2011, Arrabri Community House, 42 Allambana Drive, Bayswater North 3153

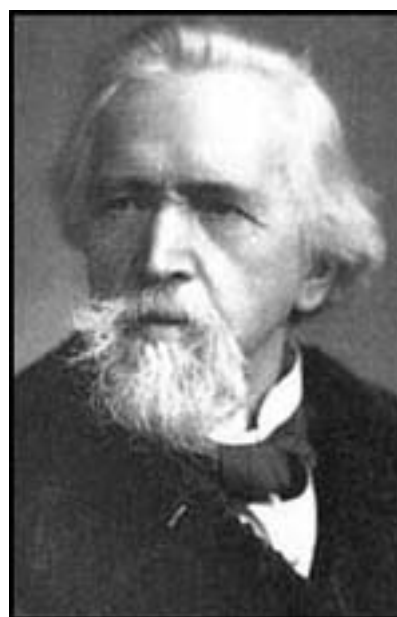
Your co-operative  
needs you!

## HOLYOAKE ON EDUCATION, ELECTIONS AND BOARDS

Extracts from—George Jacob Holyoake, **Essentials of Co-operative Education**, The Labour Association, London, UK, 1898

The Labour Association was established to promote co-operative production based on co-partnership of the workers.

George Jacob Holyoake (1817-1906) was a pioneer of the UK co-operative movement. He was a founder of the Co-operative Union in 1877 and the headquarters of Co-operatives UK (formerly the Co-operative Union) is named after him—Holyoake House. He wrote *The History of the Rochdale Pioneers* (1857), *The History of Co-operation in England* (1875) and *The Co-operative Movement Today*



**Who is the servant?** “The holder of office sometimes comes to think that the society is his servant—not he the servant of the society—and regards the members as an inferior class. It was what Shakespeare describes as ‘the insolence of office’ which made the Americans adopt the ‘spoil system’ which enables electors to secure civility by bestowing or withholding office.” ( p 3)

**How directors jump?** “So when anyone is to be elected to office, it is prudent to first find out how he jumps. And he will jump well if he has had real co-operative education.” ( p 3)

**Duties and Reasons** “It is surely part of co-operative education to instruct a member in the duties he will be called upon to discharge, and the reasons which should influence him.” ( p 10)

**Co-operators and right action.** “Since members may become leaders in their turn, and are always electors of leaders, the quality of every man and woman in a co-operative society is of paramount importance. The sort of person the elector looks for will depend upon what the elector is himself. Cobden said of Lord Palmerston that he was so impartial that he had no bias—not even towards the truth. But co-operators are the better for that kind of instruction which gives them a bias towards right action.” ( p 8)

**Pathetic Advocates.** “Few things are more pathetic than to see advocates who have made great sacrifices for the cause, becoming despondent because those whom they have sought to serve seem to care nothing for the advantages offered to them. As I have said elsewhere, when was it otherwise? ( p 14)

**Co-operation Good-Will** “Before and since the time of the Pioneers, co-operation has meant good-will to others—in contradistinction to competition, which means good-will to itself. But good-will to others implies equity—for that would be a shabby sort of good-will which is unjust to anyone. Co-operation signifies, in its very nature, working together—and working together means friendliness; for unfriendly people never work together long.” ( p 4)

**Beginning Co-operative Education.** “It was written on the tombstone of one who died very young, ‘if I were so soon to be done for, I wonder what I was begun for,’ How many members have we whose co-operative education never was begun? Yet how can directors of a society calculate its growth and progress—the zeal of those members may die an early death, and the directors not foresee it?” ( p 2)

**PRIVACY**— SEHC is committed to protecting your privacy and complying with all applicable privacy laws. If you have any questions or comments about our privacy practices, we can be contacted at

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**Annual  
General  
Meeting  
7.00—9.00  
PM  
21 November  
2011**

**Member  
nominations  
for the board  
close  
5:00 p.m.  
7 October  
2011**

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## HOUSING BRIEFS

### Services Charter

The board at its meeting on 26 August 2011 adopted a revised Services Charter.

The board believes that the revised Services Charter is member friendly and will be recommended for adoption at the AGM on 21 November 2011.

### Rule Changes

At its meeting on 26 August 2011 the board agreed to changes to the Rules—removing redundant provisions and clarifying meanings.

Before the proposed changes can go the AGM on the 21 November 2011 they have to be submitted to Consumer Affairs Victoria and the Housing Registrar for approval. This does not, however, prevent members from rejecting or amending proposed changes.

### Board Public Record

The board's second public record has been uploaded to the SEHC web site—for the meeting on 29 July 2011.

Members can request a hard or email copy by telephoning or emailing the SEHC Office.

### Make a Suggestion

We would welcome suggestions for what members would like to see in future editions of Housing Futures.

Any suggestions would be welcome and should be forwarded to the General Manager, Ian McLaren.

### Member Working Party

The first meeting of the Member Working Party established at the general meeting on 25 July 2011 was on 1 September 2011.

The Working Party is examining two issues—a member newsletter and the future organization of Member Forums.

The Working Party will present a report to the AGM on 21 November 2011.

### Organisational Performance Standards

Establishing performance standards is critical if the board and members are to assess the performance of SEHC e.g. the time taken to resolve complaints.

The board at its meeting on 26 August 2011 began the process of developing rigorous performance standards across a wide range of areas. These will be finalized later this year and will include inter alia:

- Arrears
- Board meetings
- Board vacancies
- Complaints
- General Meetings
- Maintenance

Some of the initial work on performance standards will be prominently featured in this year's Annual Report.

### Housing Co-operatives

The State Government is planning to issue a statement later this year on public and community housing.

In preparing for this, SEHC and other co-operatives are pooling their resources to fund a Housing Co-operative initiative.

It is expected that this work will enable input to the work on preparing the Government's statement—as well as a response to the subsequent statement.

### ICA Housing

ICA Housing is a sectoral organisational of the International Co-operative Alliance. It was established to promote the development of co-operative housing in all countries as an economic and social contribution to the problem of providing shelter.

The ICA Housing web site is <http://www.icahousing.coop>

### Make a Contribution

We would welcome contributions to the Housing Futures newsletter. We suggest a maximum of 150 words.

If you want to contribute something longer please discuss the details with the General Manager, Ian McLaren.